

Health Survey of Former Employees Complete

December 1, 2006

Analysis of a survey of former employees and contractors who worked 20 or more hours per week in the Bennington State Office Building is complete.

A total of 320 surveys were mailed out and 136 people responded. Of those, 17 responses were not included in the analysis because those respondents had worked in the building less than 20 hours per week. Although the response rate of 39 percent is high for a mail survey, it is not high enough to say for certain if results reflect the true health status of former building occupants.

The survey found 22 percent (26 of 119) of former occupants reported being diagnosed with asthma. Ten of those with asthma reported onset during the time of building occupancy. Two additional people reported asthma onset within two months following termination of employment.

Two former building occupants reported begin diagnosed with sarcoidosis. These two individuals are not new cases, they are already known to the department and part of the health investigation. One person reported hypersensitivity pneumonitis, a disease that can be confused with sarcoidosis, but diagnosis was prior to working in the building.

Although the survey participation rate is too low to assess with confidence the true health status of the former building occupants, the results are consistent with the results of the current employee survey described in the Health Department's October 5 interim report.